

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

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**IMPORTANT**

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iPDG

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District Communications

**Greetings from Governor Felix**



**Greetings From Governor Felix**

**Greetings, Rotary Club Members!**

As we welcome the arrival of April, I am delighted to connect with our club, brimming with gratitude and admiration. Over the past month, I've had the privilege of engaging with our remarkable clubs, witnessing the passion and commitment that characterize our Rotary family.

March was marked by enriching club visits, providing firsthand insight into the transformative projects and unwavering dedication each of you brings to your communities. Your resilience and passion have left an indelible mark on our district, and I am immensely proud of the collective impact we've achieved.

In our ongoing quest for a polio-free world, your tireless efforts have been truly heroic. As we press onward, your dedication to eradicating this disease exemplifies the essence of Rotary—a force for positive change.

The journey ahead holds boundless promise. With pride and anticipation, I eagerly anticipate the unfolding year of 2024. Together, we will embark on fresh initiatives, explore innovative avenues for service, and fortify the ties that make our Rotary family truly exceptional.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past month, let us celebrate the impact we've made, the lives we've touched, and the enduring legacy we continue to build. I extend my sincere appreciation for your unwavering commitment, and here's to a brighter and even more impactful 2024.

**District 6920 GRSP News**

Two GRSP scholars attending Georgia Southern University's Armstrong Campus came to Georgia through Rotary International connections and are committed to serving others when they return home this summer.

Maria Juliana De Vivero, 18, from Colombia, is sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Metropolitan Savannah, Savannah Sunrise and Richmond Hill. She is enjoying principles of macroeconomics and the legal environment of business this spring and one day hopes to develop a charity foundation for children and work along with Rotary and her community. Her parents are both Rotarians and she stated she learned about Rotary from the cradle.

Marko Lozovic, 22, is from Serbia. An aspiring manager and entrepreneur, he has enjoyed coursework in public speaking and supply chain management. He also highlights the GRSP Student Leadership Weekend in Dunwoody as a favorite memory, especially the impact of the introductory speeches. Marko is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Savannah. Marko's parents are also Rotarians and learned about GRSP as the result of a collaborative grant within District 6920 and Serbia.

The pair have enjoyed the year exploring historic Savannah as well witnessing the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the St. Patrick's Day parade. They will join their class in St. Mary's in mid-April for the Camden County Student Weekend, the last of the year, which often lends to longer good-byes.



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St. Simons Island

**Pam Waters**  
Glennville



### Celebrating Success: Georgia Laws of Life School Winners Shine Bright!



We are thrilled to announce and celebrate the exceptional achievements of the students named as Georgia Laws of Life School Winners! Their dedication and eloquence in expressing their personal narratives through the Laws of Life essay have left us inspired and deeply moved. Check out the announcement video on our GLL YouTube channel.

Each of these remarkable students has demonstrated incredible courage in sharing their invaluable lessons from the past and their aspirations for the future. Their essays serve as testament to their resilience, wisdom, and unwavering spirit. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the phenomenal lead teachers from 56 partner high schools who have played an instrumental role in guiding and nurturing these budding talents. Through their guidance and support, they have empowered students to reflect on their life experiences and articulate their stories with honesty and authenticity.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our donors, sponsors, and volunteers. We are immensely grateful for their unwavering commitment to empowering Georgia's teens and fostering a culture of self-reflection and personal growth. A special mention goes to the 153 Essay Judges whose dedication and expertise have been instrumental in selecting the 128 School Winners and Grade Winners. Their invaluable contribution has helped recognize and honor the exceptional talent and creativity of Georgia's youth.

As we celebrate the achievements of these outstanding students, let us continue to champion their voices and encourage them to pursue their dreams with courage and conviction. Together, we can create a brighter future for the next generation. Keep an eye on our GLL social media to see the Student Recognition events hosted by clubs throughout the state. Once again, congratulations to all the Georgia Laws of Life School Winners! Their stories have touched our hearts and inspired us all. We want every student to have this opportunity to reflect on their lives and share their story.

To bring the Laws of Life contest to a school in your community, contact Executive Director Carol Gray at [carol@georgialawsoflife.org](mailto:carol@georgialawsoflife.org).

### Rotary Club of Augusta's Highlight of the Month



The highlight of our month was hearing from two of our Speech Contest winners, in a program run by our four Interact clubs! It was very inspiring and impressive.



### Rotary Club of Camden Celebrates Paul Harris' Recipients

Paul Harris' awardees were honored during a recent gathering at the Rotary Club of Camden.



### Jekyll Island's Month in Review



The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Darrell and Sonja Allers from the Parkinson's Research Foundation. Mr Allers, himself a Parkinson's victim, spoke about the disease, its causes, symptoms and currently available treatments. More information is available at [PARKINSON.ORG](http://PARKINSON.ORG) or (800) 473-4636. Pictured are Rotarian Ron Franke from left, Ms. Allers, Mr. Allers and Club President Joe Gore.

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently host one their own members, Rev. Bert Cramer for a member talk. Dr. Cramer detailed his personal history as well as his journey into and through the ministry. He is currently the Pastor at the Jekyll Island Presbyterian Church. Pictured are Rev. Cramer on left and Club President Joe Gore.



### Macon Rotary Club Month of News



We kicked off March with our annual Rotary Speech Contest in Macon. Congratulations to our winners!

1st Place - Brynn Scott from Tattnall Square Academy  
2nd Place - Emmaleigh Brannen from Howard High School  
3rd Place - Tannya Sah from Westside High School.

Best of luck to Byrnn at the district competition.



March meetings were focused on the arts. We heard beautiful lunchtime concerts from the staff and students from the [Robert McDuffie Center for Strings](#), 11 year old harpist Harper McCoy, and the Middle Georgia Flute Choir. We also had a presentation from local photographer DSTO Moore.



## Rotary Club of Milledgeville's Month in Review

### The Baldwin High School Interact Club has been busy this Rotary year.

On World Polio Day in October they held a Paint Your Pinky Purple Day at the high school to bring awareness to Rotary's efforts to eradicate Polio. The money they raised was donated to The Polio Plus Fund. In November they partnered with the Milledgeville Rotary Club and Baldwin County School system to pack Thanksgiving boxes for families with food insecurity. December saw them partnering again with the Milledgeville Rotary Club and the Baldwin County Fire Department to wrap gifts for children that would otherwise not have Christmas. They also visited Green Acres Rehabilitation Center with Christmas cards for the residents. February had them visiting Green Acres Rehabilitation Center again with Valentine Cards and individual hand lotion for each resident. They also brought cookies for the residents and staff to enjoy.

### Will Watts Fellowship

In 1945 Mr. Will Watts was the mayor of Thomasville Georgia. At the end of World War II, General Eisenhower made a request for humanitarian support on behalf of German towns during the coldest winter on record in postwar Germany. A planeload of supplies and relief goods was flown to Luneburg Germany under the direction of Major Will Watts. Mr. Watts was honored for his humanitarian effort on behalf of the people in that town. Mr. Watts, a Rotarian, conceived and founded the Georgia Rotary Student Program in 1946 as a means to foster world peace.

The GSRP provides funding for college students to come to Georgia from across the world. This is not an exchange program but a scholarship program. Whereby students living on campus these scholarships and are involved with host families through the local Rotary clubs. These scholarships are funded by the donations of Rotarians. Those Rotarians to give a donation of \$1000 or more are known as Will Watts Fellows.

Lyn Chandler was recognized as a Will Watts Fellow on February 22<sup>nd</sup> by Katherine Fields, Georgia Rotary Student Program Director.





**THANKS TO OUR FISHING TOURNAMENT SPONSORS**

**ANNUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT**

Thanks to our sponsors!

Consider sponsoring this event to fund SAVING LIVES WITH MEDICINES, a project to supply medicines for the Houston Medical Volunteer Clinic for the four major chronic illnesses, i.e., Asthma Diabetes, Hypertension, Hypercholesterolemia. Help save lives in our own backyard.



**Early Act Club WASH Project Presentation**  
03/18/2024

Early Act Club presents their WASH Project at Perry Rotary. It is a great meeting when we have [Tucker Elementary School](#)'s Early Act Club join us!

They shared with us all of the projects they have worked on this year and presented the club with a check with the money they raised for the W.A.S.H. project.

We are so proud of these kids and thankful for their amazing advisors!



**Congratulations Jillian Dumas, our Perry Middle School student of the month! Keep up all the great work!**

[Read More](#)

**St. Simons Island Rotary Events**

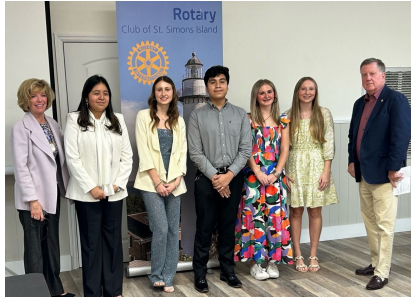
**St. Simons Rotary hosts Georgia Watershed Planning and Monitoring Program Manager**

St Simons Island Rotary Club recently hosted Dr Elizabeth Booth from Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division. Dr Booth works with 5 units that perform monitoring of watersheds and facilities. She manages water quality modeling and maximum daily loads modeling to develop water quality standards and monitoring of all water resources in the state of Georgia.



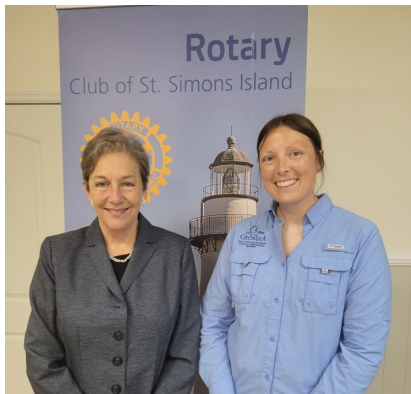
water resources in the state of Georgia.

Pictured at left Janice Lamattina, President SSI Rotary and Dr Elizabeth Booth



**Conservancy director speaks on Okefenokee**

Charles McMillan, Georgia Conservancy's natural resources director, told the St. Simons Island Rotary Club on Tuesday that the Okefenokee is a quiet battleground being waged mostly behind closed doors. The two sides are those who want to preserve the Okefenokee Swamp in the most pristine manner possible and those who want to see another major business and economic boost to the state. In 2019, Twin Pines Minerals, based in Birmingham, Alabama, filed for permits to mine for titanium not far from the edge of the swamp in Charlton County. Mining would take place on the trail ridge, a sandy geological feature that McMillan said is essential for keeping groundwater in the swamp. The Okefenokee Swamp Park Board of Trustees, of which McMillan is a member, have decided their primary goal for the foreseeable future is getting the swamp added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



**Rotarian receives Award**

At the Rotary Foundation's recent Recognition Ceremony, Michael R. Muldowney, Past 6920 District Governor, received a Major Donor award for over twenty years of donations to The Rotary Foundation.

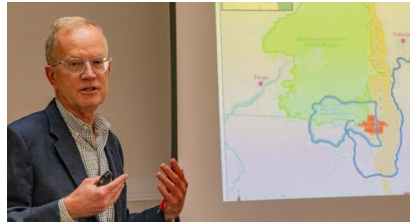
The award was presented by District Foundation Chair Hamsa Thota, left, and former Rotary International President and current Foundation Chair Barry Rassin, to Mike and his wife Nancy, right, for their support of the Rotary Foundation which funds Rotary's world wide humanitarian projects



**St. Simons Rotary Club hosts speech contest**

St. Simons Rotary Club had students from three area high schools enter the Preston Johnson speech contest. There were five participants this year with two students from Heritage Christian Academy, one from Frederica Academy and two from Glynn Academy. Students had to research and learn about Rotary then present three-minute speeches about the organization. The top two winners from each rotary club in our district will compete in the Zone contest in St. Simons Island on April 6, 2024. The winner proceeds to the District Conference for top award.

Pictured are, from left, Janice Lamattina, St Simons Rotary President; Brittany Reyes, second place winner of \$500 from Glynn Academy; Ava Page from Heritage Christian Academy; Juan Vasquez, third place winner of \$250 from Heritage Christian Academy; Elizabeth (Libby) Certain from Frederica Academy; Annabelle Lee, first place winner of \$1,000 from Glynn Academy; Jim Kiehl, contest coordinator.



**St. Simons Rotary hosts Dr. Valerie Hepburn, Georgia DNR, Marsh and Shoreline Protection**

St Simons Island Rotary Club recently hosted Dr. Valerie Hepburn, a member of the Georgia DNR Coastal Marshlands Protection and Shore Protection Committees. The committees issue permits for activities that occur within the jurisdiction of state laws, namely the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act, 1970, and Shore Protection Act 1979. These activities include waterfront development such as marinas and community docks, residential and commercial waterfront development, beach crossovers, beach nourishment, and bank stabilization. Any person, or community developer, wanting to construct anything along these areas must comply with detailed state laws, and submit detailed applications to the committees for review. CMPA and/or SPA permits are issued as necessary, thus protecting all of Georgia's fragile marshes and shorelines.

Pictured at left is Dr Valerie Hepburn and Elizabeth Byrnes, Coastal Permit Coordinator, GA Dept Natural Resources, Coastal resources Division.



**Downtown Rotary club of Statesboro Grant Project**

Our grant project to refurbish exercise equipment that our club donated years ago along the fitness trail at Mill Creek Regional Park is now complete. Thank you to all the membership and leadership who participated in this project.





## Metro Savannah Rotary Club Preston Johnson speech Contest - Woodville Tompkins HS Interact Club



The Preston Johnson Speech Contest on Wednesday, March 27 at Woodville-Tompkins Institute in Savannah, GA was a success!

Pictured below are all 7 contestants with the Metropolitan Savannah Rotary judging panel (top) and the panel with Principal Alfred McGuire and the top 3 winners (bottom). Congratulations!

â€¢1st place = Serani Hassan  
â€¢2nd place = Sanlos Celestin  
â€¢3rd place = Maleik Clausell

## Valdosta Rotary Club Month in Review

### Speech Contest

Preston Johnson Speech Contest held on February 14 - Reyna Chun - 3rd place, Rossalyn Perralta - 2nd place, and Deacon Hazel - winner. The girls are from Valdosta Early College Academy and Deacon is from Georgia Christian. Their speeches were on Rotary International's theme for this year - Create Hope in the World and Rotary's 4 Way Test (Is it the Truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it bring goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?)



### LEAD Luncheon (Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner)

The 17th annual Valdosta Rotary Club LEAD luncheon was held on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024. In addition to raising funds to provide financial assistance to their families during medical emergencies and other needs, the event recognizes Officers of the Year from the Valdosta Police Department, Lowndes County Sheriff's Office, and Georgia State Patrol.

Officers of the Year include Georgia State Patrol TFC Cameron Cain, Lowndes County Sheriff's Office Captain Janet Culpepper, and Valdosta Police Department Lt. Vincent Altobello.

Pictured with the officers are LEAD Chair Bubba Highsmith, Georgia State Patrol Sgt. Jeremy Swain, Lowndes County Sheriff Ashley Paulk, Valdosta Police Chief Leslie Manahan, and Valdosta Rotary President Deanna Smith.

The Valdosta Rotary LEAD committee includes Bubba Highsmith, Threesa Boyd, Wes Sewell, and Claire Lee.



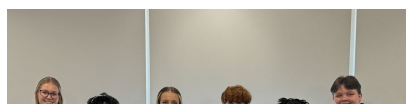
### Luck of the Irish Rotary Unwind

Our Rotary unwind event was held at the Lowndes County historic courthouse where members from Valdosta North Rotary Club joined us. We were lead on a tour by our County manager Paige Dukes. She showed us how the over 100-year-old building had been renovated and restored -some features back to its closest original state. The purpose of this event was to fellowship with Rotarians outside of our regular meetings and it was a huge success. This event was free for all members and their guests. If it weren't for our sponsors this event would not been possible. Our Sponsors include Wild Adventures Theme Park, McClane Funeral Home, Ashley Home Furniture, and Blanton & Griffin Insurance Agency.



## Vidalia Rotary holds annual Rotary Student Speech Contest

Vidalia Rotary recently held its annual Rotary Student Speech Contest! Six students from three different high schools competed for cash awards for the best speech highlighting Rotary principles. The



six participating students were Mekhia Bell and Autumn Moore from Robert Toombs Christian Academy, Aubrey Gay and Tyler Reese from Toombs County High, as well as Dallas Handsome and Noah Varn representing Vidalia High School. All did a fabulous job! Winners for first through third are, first place \$150 VHS- Noah Varn, second place VHS -Dallas Handsome \$75, and third place RTCA- Autumn Moore, \$50! The good news is they are all winners in our book and we are so proud of each of them. The future is indeed bright in our community!



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## Rotary Club of Warner Robins New Satellite Club

The Rotary Club of Warner Robins now has a "Satellite Club". This has added more than ten new members to our Club Roles. Dr. Angie Eugene has assumed the leadership of this diversified group of new Rotarians. Breana Basset is Dr. Angie's helper.

The Satellite Club meets on the first and Third Tuesday of each month ONLINE at 7:30 PM. If you want more information, you can call Dr. Angie Eugene at (478)-335-7565. Satellite Clubs give service minded people a way to participate in worthwhile projects while not having to attend our traditional weekly Club meeting. Our District 6920 Membership Chair, Steve Williams helped us get this going, and is now helping us establish a "Corporate" Rotary membership.

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## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO AND LINKS:

**DG Felix Smith** | 478-919-8968 | [dgfelixsmith2023@gmail.com](mailto:dgfelixsmith2023@gmail.com)

**DACdb:** <http://www.dacdb.com>

**District Website:** [www.rotarydistrict6920.org](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.org)

**District Facebook Page:** [www.facebook.com/Rotary6920](https://www.facebook.com/Rotary6920)

**Rotary International Website:** [www.rotary.org/en](http://www.rotary.org/en)

**Rotary International Foundation:** [www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation](http://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation)

**My Rotary:** [my.rotary.org/en/](http://my.rotary.org/en/)

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